



Leon County Top Legislative Priorities 2007

Key 2007 Appropriation Requests

Support: \$5,000,000 for a Joint Emergency



Communication Center – Construction of a Joint Dispatch Center.

The County, Sheriff, and City of Tallahassee have agreed to create an Emergency Communication Center (ECC) for the purpose of dispatching all law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. The ECC will ensure that the closest available unit is dispatched to an emergency, reducing response time for all critical matters.

Support: \$23,000,000 for Widening Mahan

Drive – Construction project to widen Mahan Drive (U.S. 90) from Dempsey Mayo Road to I-10.

The County has already advance funded \$16.9 million to FDOT for the widening of Mahan Drive. This project will expand Mahan Drive from two to four lanes to accommodate the rapid development on the east side of Leon County, provide bike lanes, and build sidewalks along the community's eastern gateway.



Support: \$5,500,000 for Capital Circle SE –

Construction from Woodville Highway to Tram Road.



Capital Circle is a major arterial roadway circling the Tallahassee urban area and serves as a link to I-10. Local governments have already dedicated over \$140 million to widen Capital Circle, a state roadway. Once completed, this portion of Capital Circle SE will be a six-lane divided urban facility improving access to the State's Capital Circle Office Complex, which currently employs over 2,500 state employees.

Support: \$300,000 for Wakulla Springs Aquifer

Protection – Planning and design of a sewer system in Woodville.

This request is for a PD&E study to provide sewer service to approximately 1,432 homes or properties located in the Woodville area, directly upstream of one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs. Providing sewer service will eliminate the need for septic tanks which, in the event of failure, can cause a threat to Wakulla Springs and significant environmentally negative impacts.



Key 2007 Substantive Requests

Support: Comprehensive Property Tax Reform



– Support legislation that provides an equitable property tax structure and does not fiscally constrain local governments.

The County recognizes the taxing inequities of the property tax system and strongly supports the Florida Association of Counties in their efforts to reduce those inequities by bringing relief to non-homestead property owners. Therefore, the County opposes doubling the homestead exemption and all forms of statewide portability as it would increase the taxing inequities by shifting the tax burden to non-homestead property owners. Doubling the homestead exemption would result in a \$10.9 million loss in revenues to Leon County this year. The County supports the **limited portability** of Save Our Homes within the same county.



Support: County Home Rule

Authority – Oppose legislation that limits, restricts, or pre-empts charter county home rule authority.

Home rule power is conferred to counties by the Florida Constitution with the notion that government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs of the people. That being said, the County opposes efforts to pre-empt charter county authority, such as state-imposed revenue and expenditure caps, in order to maintain the integrity of county home rule authority to implement community-based solutions to local problems.

Key Contact Information

Board of County Commissioners

Ed DePuy, Chairman
John Dailey
Bill Proctor
Cliff Thael

Jane G. Sauls, Vice-Chairman
Bryan Desloge
Bob Rackleff

Leon County Administrator
Deputy County Administrator
Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator
Special Projects Coordinator

Parwez Alam
Vincent Long*
Ken Morris*
Shington Lamy

**Denotes primary staff legislative contacts*

Phone Number for All Leon County Contacts
(850) 606-5300

Leon County State Contract Lobbyists

Shutts and Bowen
Bobby Brantley
(850) 521-0600
John Holley
(850) 521-0600

Lewis, Longman, and Walker
David Ramba
(850) 443-4444
Linda Cox
(850) 508-0099